

him and other representative French writers  
to attend one  
of its congresses in London. Zola's connection  
with Ernest  
Vizetelly had now become a close one. A  
translation of  
"Le Docteur Pascal" had followed that of "La  
Debacle,"  
and arrangements had been made for an  
English version  
of a previous work, "I/Argent," Zola indorsing  
all Vize-  
telly's proposals in a letter in which he said:  
"My dear  
*confrere*, I leave translation matters entirely  
to you, and  
it is sufficient you should tell me that an  
arrangement is  
good for me to accept it. I know you to be  
devoted to  
my interests, and you are well placed to  
decide every-  
thing."<sup>1</sup> Under these circumstances, early  
in August  
1893, soon after receiving the invitation of  
the Institute  
of Journalists, Zola communicated with Vizetelly  
and asked  
him for certain information. "I should like to  
know," he  
wrote, "what will be the importance of this  
congress, and  
whether it will offer much interest. You know  
my posi-  
tion in London; my work is still very much  
questioned  
there, almost denied. It certainly seems to me  
that my  
presence, and the words I might speak, might  
efface much  
of the misunderstanding, and that it would be  
politic to  
accept, in order to influence opinion, But  
what is your  
view? Eepley to me at once at Mfdan."

Vizetelly, in his reply, reviewed the situation  
such as it  
had become since the "The Downfall" which

had conducted  
to a movement in Zola's favour. The English  
critics, he  
said, still made all sorts of reserves, asserting,  
for instance,  
that a new Zola had come into being and one  
of them even

<sup>1</sup> The writer holds several letters written to him by Zola at  
various times,  
expressing similar reliance on his judgment. To print them all  
would be to  
exaggerate their importance. The above will suffice as a  
specimen.